Tourism, Culture and Recreation
June 2, 2008

Minister Joins in Presentation of 2008 Arts and Letters Awards

The creative excellence of Newfoundland and Labrador's emerging and professional artists was celebrated at the 2008 Arts and Letters Awards ceremony, held Saturday, May 31, at The Rooms in St. John's.

The Honourable Clyde Jackman, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, and author Kevin Major, chair of the Arts and Letters Committee, presented the awards, which come with prize money totalling $46,000.

"The Provincial Government recognizes that our visual, music and literary artists are integral to the development and sustainability of our cultural industries," Minister Jackman said. "For that reason, in Budget 2008, we continue to invest significantly in programs and services which support the arts sectors."

A total of 34 prizes were awarded in the Junior Division for entrants ages 12 to 18, and 36 prizes were awarded in the Senior Division. Prizes in both divisions were awarded in literary arts, musical composition and visual arts. Senior awards were presented by Minister Jackman, while Mr. Major presented the junior awards.

"Once again the Arts and Letters Committee is thrilled with the strong and enthusiastic response the program has received across the province from beginners to seasoned professionals, from age 12 to 82, and from a total of nearly a thousand entrants," Mr. Major said.

The Percy Janes First Novel Award was presented to Craig Francis Power for his manuscript entitled, *Blood Relatives*. The award comes with a $1,500 prize.

The presentation of awards was interspersed with readings, visual presentations, and performances by some of this year's winners.

Meanwhile, Minister Jackman recognized the contribution of Mr. Major, who has announced he is stepping down as chair of the Arts and Letters Committee after eight years serving in that role.

"Mr. Major's vision and leadership has been instrumental in the success of the Arts and Letters Awards for the past decade and we sincerely thank him for his personal commitment to furthering the development of the arts in Newfoundland and Labrador," Minister Jackman said.

In 2006, the Provincial Government released its cultural strategy, *Creative Newfoundland and Labrador*, which committed $17.6 million over three years to cultural initiatives in the province. In the first year of implementation, annual funding to the Arts and Letters Awards program was increased by $50,000 – including a $23,000 increase in prize money.

Budget 2008 also made an additional $300,000 available to artists through the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council (NLAC), following through on a 2006 commitment to double the NLAC's budget to $1.8 million.

The Provincial Arts and Letters Awards program was established in 1952 and has recognized some of Newfoundland and Labrador's most talented and well-known artists. Over the past 56 years, thousands of professional and amateur artists from every part of the province have expressed themselves creatively through participation in the program. This year, almost 1,000 entries were submitted from communities throughout the province.

There will be an exhibition of selected entries on the second floor of The Rooms until June 15, 2008. For further information, please visit: www.gov.nl.ca/artsandletters.

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BACKGROUNDER

Arts and Letters Awards Recipients

Senior Visual Art 2008
(194 entries; $1,000 prize)
Adjudicators: Marlene Creates, Michael Connolly, Barb Daniell

Senior Visual Art			
Name	**Home**	**Title**	**Medium**
John Haney	St. John's	Island 6	Colour Photography
Rhonda Walsh	Nain	Bear Claws, Inukshuk and the Labrador Sky	Cotton Embroidery
Andrew Pike	St. John's	Wharf on my Pond	Acrylic on Canvas
Heather Miller	St. John's	Flying Surgeons	Oil, Acrylic on Canvas
Iakov Afanassiev	St. John's	Mother and Child	Oil on Canvas
Nicole Pitcher	Conception Bay South	Little Red House	Celluclay, Driftwood, Mixed Media
David Baltzer	St. John's	St. John's #5 (Powers Ct.)	Oil on Canvas
William Gill	St. John's	Going Home	Acrylic on Panel
Reed Weir	Robinsons	Omadhaun	Stoneware Clay
Jonathan O'Dea	St. John's	Sweet Tooth	Chalk Pastel on Paper
Ellie Yonova	Portugal Cove	Morning Light-Study with Corn Husks	Photography
Jack Botsford	St. John's	Wind in the Grass, Robinsons	Linocut-5 colour
Erin Callahan St. John	St. John's	The Five Muses	Ceramic
Donna Ramsay	St. John's	Holga on the Hill	Triptych#2 (3 silver gelatin prints made from Holga toy

			camera)
Gina Cuff	St. John's	Portrait of a Woman	Mixed Media/Collage)

Junior Visual Art
(139 entries; $250 prize)
Adjudicators: Tara Bryan, Jason Holly

Junior Visual Art			
Name	**Home**	**Title**	**Medium**
Ryan Gill	Englee	Lockers Point, Englee	Water Paint on Canvas
Olga Trela	St. John's	Departures	Digital Photography
Michael Gibbons	St. John's	Self Portrait	Digital Photography
Kurt Brennan	Conception Bay South	Poppy and Royal	Graphite
Jessica Kilfoy	Conception Bay South	Le Feu Fini	Digital Photography
Thea Palmer	Conception Bay South	Eye of the Newfoundland Pony	Digital Photography
Cassy Palmer	Conception Bay South	I Picked it for You	Pencil
Kristina Ennis	St. John's	Queen of all you Stand on	Collograph Print
Nicole Maddox	Bay Bulls	Green to Ashes	Mixed Media- Prismacolour and Ink
Daisy Hurich	Conception Bay South	La Belle Dame Sans Merci	Watercolour and Acrylic

Senior Poetry 2008
(113 entries; $1,000 prize)
Adjudicators: Stan Dragland, Don Mckay

Senior Poetry		
Name	**Home**	**Title**
Andreae Prozesky	St. John's	Night-Waking
Alvin Osmond	Outer Cove	Leads
Leslie Vryenhoek	St. John's	Blind Spot
Susan Ingersoll	St. John's	Labour Day
Isabel Blackmore	Gander	Another Rubber
Amanda Jernigan	St. John's	Delivery

Junior Poetry
(146 entries; $250 prize)
Adjudicators: Marnie Parsons, Robin McGrath

Junior Poetry		
Name	**Home**	**Title**
Michael O'Keefe	St. John's	Tonight is the Night
Maura Brennan	St. John's	A Child
Alex Trnka-Macgillivray	St. John's	Time
Miranda Byrne	Lark Harbour	Newfoundland
Jennifer Bautista	St. John's	The Burning Giraffe
Rebecca Power	Wabush	Café Special
Michael Walsh	Clarenville	This Morning
Peter O'Rielly	St. Brendan's	"XX" in a "XY" World
Anna Snow	St. John's	I Wandered Lonely
Haerin Park	St. John's	Waiting

Senior Short Fiction
(84 entries; $1,000 prize)
Adjudicators: Annamarie Beckel, Trudy Morgan Cole

Senior Short Fiction		
Name	**Home**	**Title**
Gerard Collins	St. John's	Hold Out
Ed Kavanagh	Mount Pearl	Strays
Carmelita McGrath	St. John's	Revenants
Russell Wangersky	St. John's	Echo
Paul Butler	St. John's	The Heart Escapes

Senior Non-Fictional Prose
(28 entries; $1,000 prize)
Adjudicator: Ed Smith

Senior Non-Fictional Prose		
Name	**Home**	**Title**
Stephanie Oliver	Kippens	Dear Beth
Mary McCarthy Doyle	Northern Bay	Oh Ye Smiling Gods

Patrick Boyle	Mount Pearl	Improvisation and Bricolage in Non-musical Systems

Junior Prose
(139 entries; $250 prize)
Adjudicators: Janet McNaughton, Nancy Shouse

Junior Prose		
Name	**Home**	**Title**
Jamie Byrne	St. Brendan's	The Pursuit of Rebirth
Margaret Way	St. Lawrence	Falling Star
Robyn Hannaford	Northern Arm	Sunflowers
Maria Lacey	St. John's	An Unlived Life
Lawrence Bouzane	St. John's	The Sky Dweller
Melanie Hurley	St. John's	Like a River, Strong and Free
Andrea Dunne	St. John's	Waiting in the Wings
Jonathan Grenning	St. John's	The Master of Life and Death
Robyn Tilley	Conception Bay South	104 Circular Road
Victoria Linehan	St. John's	Just a Simple Check-up

Senior Dramatic Script
(12 entries; $1,000 prize)
Adjudicator: Aiden Flynn

Senior Dramatic Script		
Name	**Home**	**Title**
Ben Pittman	St. John's	The Fights
Megan Coles	Bear Cove	Our Eliza

Senior Musical Composition
(25 entries; $1,000 prize)
Adjudicators: Martin Steffen, Brian Way

Senior Musical Composition		
Name	**Home**	**Title**
James MacDonald	St. John's	Sandman's Lullaby
Curtis Andrews	Carbonear	Malabar
Christopher Feener	Grand Falls -Windsor	Altercations

Michael Snelgrove	Grand Falls-Windsor	Beware the Shrouded Moor

Junior Musical Composition
(17 entries; $250 prize)
Adjudicators: Martin Steffen, Brian Way

Junior Musical Composition		
Name	**Home**	**Title**
Katharine Nuotio-Trimm	Labrador City	Fingering it Out
Annie Warner	St. John's	Something With a Little in It
Kathleen Allan	St. John's	Octinatober
Andrew Noseworthy	Labrador City	Windfall

Percy Janes First Novel Award
(10 entries; $1,500 prize)
Adjudicator: Anne Hart

Percy Janes First Novel Award		
Name	**Home**	**Title**
Craig Francis Power	St. John's	Blood Relatives

David C. Saxon Humanitarian Essay Competition
The Promotion of World Peace and Harmony:
How is World Peace Affected by Environmental Degradation?
Adjudicator: Dr. Michael Stavely

David C. Saxon Humanitarian Essay Competition	
Senior Division	
Name	**Home**
Andrew Button	St. John's

David C. Saxon Humanitarian Essay Competition	
Junior Division	
Name	**Home**
Cole Walsh	Flowers Cove

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